

ABSTRACT

This invention provides for new recombinant ribonuclease proteins which are active when expressed by bacteria. This allows the recombinant ribonucleases of this invention to be fused in-frame with ligand binding moieties to form cytotoxic fusion proteins. Furthermore, these proteins are more active than ribonucleases currently available even though the proteins of this invention lack an N-terminal pyroglutamic acid, which has been found to be necessary for ribonucleolytic activity. Because these proteins are recombinant proteins, mutations which increase cytotoxicity can be engineered.